

Application No.: 10/652,927

Docket No.: 29915/6280N3US

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION**

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 31, line 22 with the following amended paragraph.

a purified polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence that includes amino acids 58 to 394 of SEQ ID NO: 6, and that lacks amino acids 22 to 57 of SEQ ID NO: [[4]]  
6;

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 16 with the following amended paragraph.

A murine EST sequence encoding a portion of the murine Asp2 cDNA was ~~identified in the GenBank EST database using the BLAST search tool and the Hu-Asp2~~ coding sequence as the query. Clone g3160898 displayed 88% shared identity to the human sequence over 352 bp. Oligonucleotide primer pairs specific for this region of murine Asp2 were then synthesized and used to amplify regions of the murine gene. Murine genomic DNA, derived from strain 129/SvJ, was amplified in the PCR (25 cycles) using various primer sets specific for murine Asp2 and the products analyzed by agarose gel electrophoresis. The primer set Zoo-1 and Zoo-4 amplified a 750 bp fragment that contained approximately 600 bp of intron sequence based on comparison to the known cDNA sequence. This primer set was then used to screen a murine BAC library by PCR, a single genomic clone was isolated and this clone was confirmed contain the murine Asp2 gene by DNA sequence analysis. Shotgun DNA sequencing of this Asp2 genomic clone and comparison to the cDNA sequences of both Hu-Asp2 and the partial murine cDNA sequences defined the full-length sequence of murine Asp2 (SEQ ID NO: 7). The predicted amino acid sequence of murine Asp2 (SEQ ID NO: 8) showed 96.4% shared identity (GCG BestFit algorithm) with 18/501 amino acid residue substitutions compared to the human sequence (Figure 4). The proteolytic processing of murine Asp2(a) is believed to be analogous to the processing described above for human Asp2(a). In addition, a variant lacking amino acid residues 190-214 of SEQ ID NO: 8 is specifically contemplated as a murine Asp2(b) polypeptide and is set out as SEQ ID NO: 73. All forms of murine Asp2(b) gene and protein are intended as aspects of the invention.